WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multi-beam scanning optical system, comprising:

a light source having at least three light-emitting points;

deflection means for deflecting at least three light fluxes emitted from the at least three light-emitting points to a surface to be scanned; and

scanning optical means for guiding the at least three light fluxes which are deflected and reflected on the deflection means onto the surface to be scanned, each of the at least three light fluxes being entered into the surface to be scanned at an angle within a sub-scanning section,

wherein, provided that a variation in lengths of scanning lines which is caused when each of the at least three light fluxes is entered into the surface to be scanned at an angle within the sub-scanning section is represented as $\Delta Y1$, a variation in lengths of scanning lines which is caused when each of the at least three light fluxes is allowed to enter as a non-parallel light flux to a deflection surface of the deflection means within a main-scanning section is represented as $\Delta Y2$, and a variation in lengths of scanning lines which is caused from a difference of wavelength between at least two of the at least three light fluxes is represented as $\Delta Y3$,

values of $\Delta Y1$, $\Delta Y2$, and $\Delta Y3$ are set so as to satisfy

$$|\Delta Y1 + \Delta Y2 + \Delta Y3| < |\Delta Y1|.$$

2. A multi-beam scanning optical system according to claim 1, wherein in the case where an optical path length of a light flux from a light-emitting point nearest an optical axis of the scanning optical means to the surface to be scanned is longer than optical paths of light fluxes from other light-emitting points to the surface to be scanned, the light fluxes which are deflected and reflected on the deflection means are converted into convergent light fluxes, and in the case where the optical path length of the light flux from the light-emitting point nearest the optical axis of the scanning optical means to the surface to be scanned is shorter than the optical paths of the light fluxes from the other light-emitting points to the surface to be scanned, the light fluxes which are deflected and reflected on the deflection means are converted into divergent light fluxes.

3. A multi-beam scanning optical system according to claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a plurality of light source units,

at least one of the plurality of light source

units includes a plurality of light-emitting points,

a variation in lengths of scanning lines on the surface to be scanned, which are formed by light fluxes from light-emitting points in the plurality of light source units is reduced by converting the light fluxes which are deflected and reflected on the deflection means into non-parallel light fluxes within the main-scanning section, and

a variation in lengths of scanning lines on the surface to be scanned, which are formed by light fluxes from the plurality of light-emitting points in the at least one light source unit is reduced by making a difference of wavelength between the light fluxes from the light-emitting points.

4. A multi-beam scanning optical system according to claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a plurality of light source units,

at least one of the plurality of light source units includes a plurality of light-emitting points,

a variation in lengths of scanning lines on the surface to be scanned, which are formed by light fluxes from light-emitting points in the plurality of light source units is reduced by making a difference of wavelength between the light fluxes from the light-emitting points in the light source units, and

a variation in lengths of scanning lines on the

surface to be scanned, which are formed by light fluxes from the plurality of light-emitting points in the at least one light source unit is reduced by converting the plurality of light fluxes which are deflected and reflected on the deflection means into non-parallel light fluxes within the main-scanning section.

5. A multi-beam scanning optical system according to claim 1, wherein the at least three light fluxes are entered into the deflection surface of the deflection means at irregular angles within the main-scanning section.

6. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

the multi-beam scanning optical system according to any one of claims 1 to 5;

a photosensitive member which is located on the surface to be scanned;

a developing unit that develops, as a toner image, an electrostatic latent image which is formed on the photosensitive member scanned with the light fluxes by the multi-beam scanning optical system;

a transferring unit that transfers the developed toner image to a transfer material; and

a fixing device that fixes the transferred toner image to the transfer material.

7. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

the multi-beam scanning optical system according to claim 6; and

a printer controller that converts code data inputted from an external device into an image signal and outputs the image signal to the multi-beam scanning optical system.

8. A color image forming apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of multi-beam scanning optical systems, each of which is the multi-beam scanning optical system according to any one of claims 1 to 5; and

a plurality of image bearing members each located on a surface to be scanned of the multi-beam scanning optical systems, which form images of different colors.

9. A color image forming apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a printer controller that converts a color signal inputted from an external device into image data of different colors and outputs the image data to the respective multi-beam scanning optical systems.